

## **Historic, Archive Document**

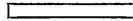
Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



The Birth of a New Industry

# The Burbank ROYAL Walnut

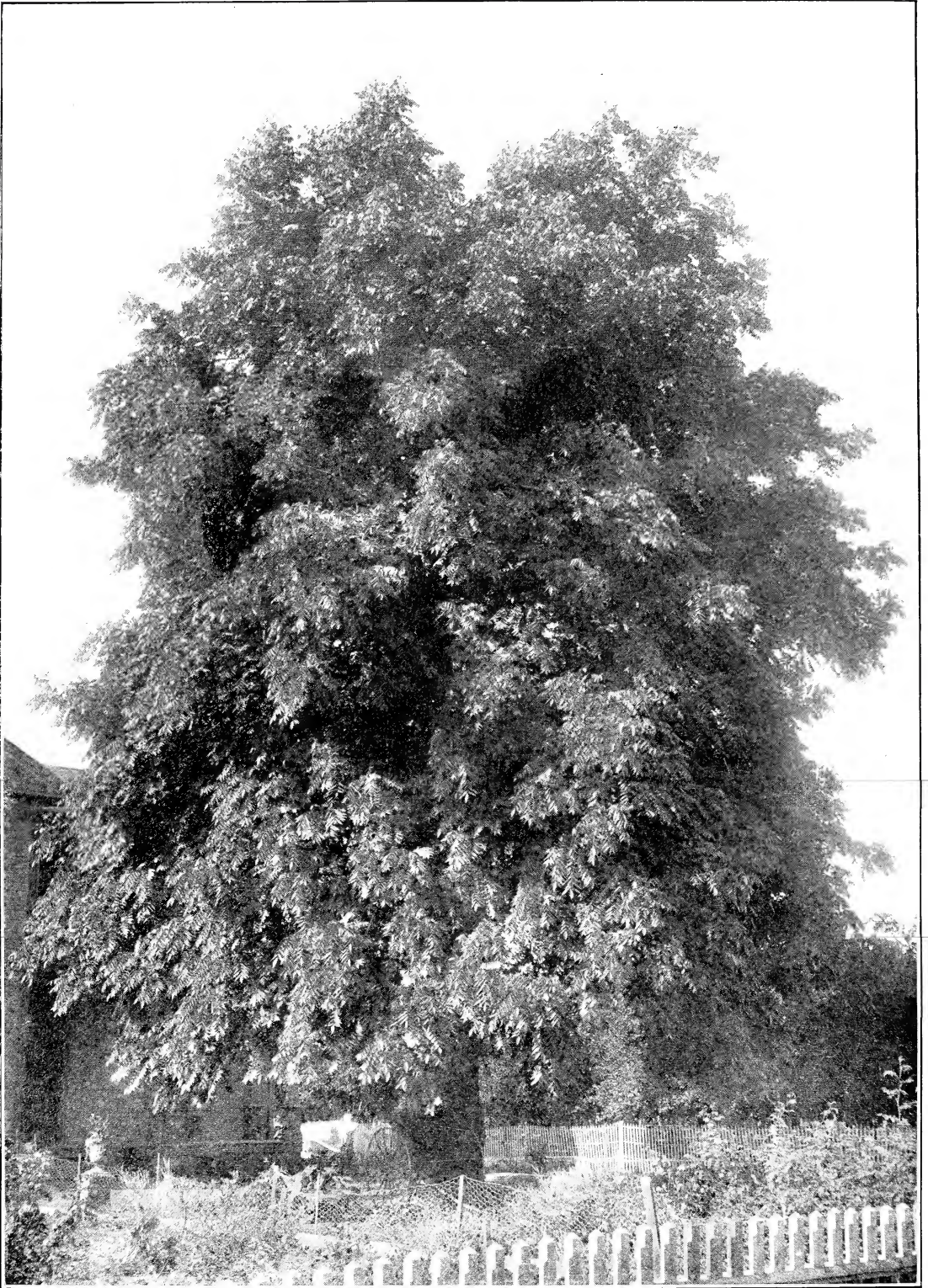
A New Timber Tree for  
Both Beauty and Profit. The Most Rapid  
Growing Hardwood Timber  
Tree Known



LUTHER BURBANK

SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA, U. S. A

*Burbank's Experiment Farms*

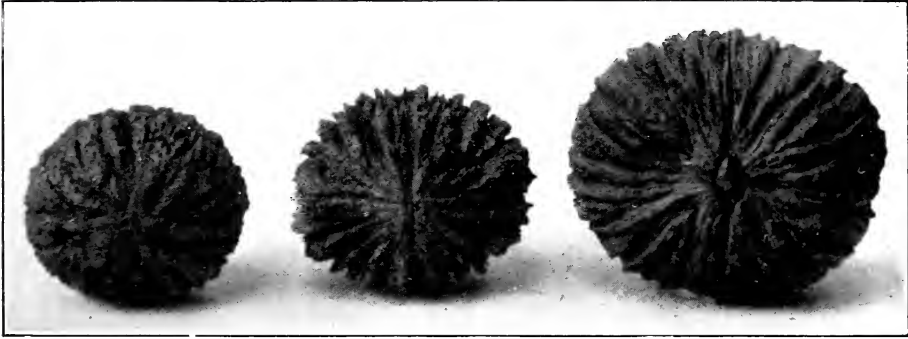


*The Burbank Original "ROYAL" Walnut Tree. Twenty-Two Years of Age; Ninety-Six Feet in Height With a Spread of Sixty-Four Feet of Branches and a Girth of Nine Feet Three Inches Six Feet Above the Ground and the Same at Twelve Feet.*

## The Burbank ROYAL Walnut

DURING THE YEARS from 1878 to 1885 I was experimenting extensively with our native nut trees, the Black Walnut of the Eastern States (*Juglans Nigra*), our native Black Walnut (*j. Californica*), the Texas Black Walnut (*j. Rupestris*), and the Asian Walnuts (*j. Manschurica*) (*j. Sieboldi*); also the South American Black Walnut (*j. Nigra* var.), the Butternut (*j. Cinerea*), and a dozen or more other species.

The result of a cross of a rapid growing Eastern Black Walnut and our Northern California, handsome, rapid growing Black Walnut, produced the variety now known everywhere as the "ROYAL," which will outgrow any other known walnut tree on earth, whether produced by



*California Black Walnut and Eastern Black Walnut, the Two Parents of the "ROYAL" Hybrid and the "ROYAL" at the Right*

Nature or by the skill of man. The "ROYAL" has come to be known not only as the best of all walnuts for timber production, but also from its unequaled vigor as a stock on which to graft all the best soft shell walnuts of commerce; it being found by general experience that these trees grafted on the "ROYAL" root made a better growth, bore more and larger nuts of better quality, and were far less subject to the blight.

*But above all, the value of the "Royal" is for timber, which it will produce at about one-eighth the expense of the ordinary Black Walnut timber and in some cases in less than one-eighth the time.* Do these astounding results mean anything? A tree that will produce the most beautiful and most costly of all our American woods with a speed almost or quite equaling the eucalyptus means simply that it would now be a foolish waste of time and labor to plant timber groves of any other kind, especially when it is well known that old Black Walnut fences, stumps, and the inside finish of old houses are now eagerly sought



for making walnut veneers, being even now too expensive to use solid as formerly, before the whole American supply was exhausted.

The wood of the "ROYAL" often shows an annual growth of nearly one inch all around the tree each season, while the bark is thinner than that of the ordinary Black Walnut.

When I first announced this rapid growing walnut, most lumber men and those who had used the common Black Walnut in the manufacture of furniture were very doubtful; some of them even very sure that it would prove to be softer than the Eastern Walnut, which they were then using. Therefore, I cut a large branch from my original enormous tree and subjected pieces of the timber to several New York and Chicago piano and furniture makers, all of whom pronounced it heavier, harder, closer grained, and of a finer, silkier texture and in all respects superior to the common Black Walnut. This could, of course, leave no doubt of its superior quality for every purpose for which Black Walnut is used.

This really wonderful new timber and surpassingly beautiful shade tree probably can not be profitably grown where the thermometer falls much *lower* than *twenty* or *thirty degrees below zero*, as with such a winter temperature the tips are frozen back occasionally, which checks the trees badly if too often repeated. The trees, however, live in Eastern Canada, but thrive

---

*These two yearling trees show the extremes in walnut growth. Both were grown side by side the same season on the same land with exactly the same treatment. The larger tree will produce wood and timber at least one hundred times as fast as the smaller one, not only when young, but always. The tall one shown in the picture grew six feet, one and one-half inches from the surface of the ground; the other only one inch. The roots, of course, as may be seen, were in proportion to the top growth.*

with unexampled vigor on any deep alluvial soil throughout most of the United States.

The value of the "ROYAL" as a shade and ornamental tree with its grace, beauty, and towering proportions is well shown by the photograph of one of the original trees which now, at twenty-two years of age, is *ninety-six feet in height* with a spread of *sixty-six feet of branches* and a *girth of nine feet three inches six feet above the ground* and the *same at twelve feet*. If any other nut tree of the same age, of equal size and equal beauty has been seen, it has never yet been mentioned. This "ROYAL" tree also produces an enormous quantity of very large Black Walnuts, of much finer quality than other Black Walnuts.

When Assistant Traffic Director of the Harriman Lines visited my place with James Horsburg, Jr., of the Southern Pacific Passenger Department and Prof. E. J. Wickson of the *Rural Press*, he relates that he saw many wonderful things, but was most impressed and amazed by the Hybrid Walnut which promises to revolutionize the furniture business and also perhaps the cord wood industry on account of the unusual hardness, fine close fiber and rapid growth of the tree, and its abundant yield of large nuts. "I almost had a suspicion that I was not in my right senses when viewing some of Mr. Burbank's achievements," remarked Mr. Stohr on returning from Santa Rosa, "for after delving into the mysteries of that hybrid walnut I became absolutely 'walnutty'."

The trees should be planted forty to fifty feet apart each way in groves for timber or they may be planted twenty to thirty feet apart and every other one removed before they begin to crowd.

Various farm crops, fruit trees, poultry, or other uses may be made of the ground while the trees are young, but on good soil the larger spaces will soon be covered.



A "ROYAL" Tree Growing in Connecticut; Nine Feet in Height at Fifteen Months of Age. Any Walnut the First Year After Transplanting Grows Only a Few Inches. The Second Season the "ROYAL" Often Grows Six to Ten Feet.

The *first* "ROYAL" Walnut *ever produced* by the skill of man was produced on *my own grounds* and was *first named, first described, and first introduced by myself*. If you wish to start right it is well to go to the *fountain head* by purchasing trees or nuts for a grove DIRECT FROM THE ORIGINATOR. It saves trouble later, as the originator of a new tree or plant or product of any kind must feel an interest in its success which is not often shared by others who have something to offer "just as good as *Burbank's*."

---

*Extra Selected* one year nursery trees of "ROYAL" from the *Original Tree*; each, \$1; ten, \$8; hundred, \$75.

*One year selected* as above; each, 60c; ten, \$5; hundred, \$30.

*One year general run* as above; each, 25c; ten, \$2; hundred, \$15.

*Nuts for planting* from Original Giant tree; each, 15c; ten, \$1; hundred, \$6.

*Wood for grafting* from the Original Tree; foot, 50c; ten feet, \$3; hundred feet, \$25.



Let it be remembered that although the facts stated above are correct in every particular as nearly as it is possible to state facts, yet I do not recommend everybody to plant "ROYALS" for timber. Only those who can afford to wait for ten or twenty years, great as the profits may be, should invest in this attractive enterprise, so well suited to those who have land on which this permanent and sure investment will yield great returns with so little trouble and labor. But all may plant a few trees for beauty and the enhancement in value which grand trees bring to any piece of land.

The largest and most frequent orders for the "ROYAL" Walnut come from the very States where the Black Walnut used to grow and where now a good old Black Walnut tree will sell at from \$100 to \$600 or \$800, and where good Black Walnut lumber brings as high as \$200 per thousand feet. The "ROYAL" is especially adapted to reforestation, roadside planting, and for general shade-tree purposes. In one case a request was received for ten million trees—one million a year for ten years. As there are not enough of the "ROYAL" Walnuts in the world to supply such a request, it was, of course, reluctantly refused, though the original "ROYAL" tree always bears great crops of nuts. We have counted the crop this season and find there are 17,160 nuts and there are a few still on the tree, in all amounting to a little over *forty-five bushels* as they fall in the husk.

---

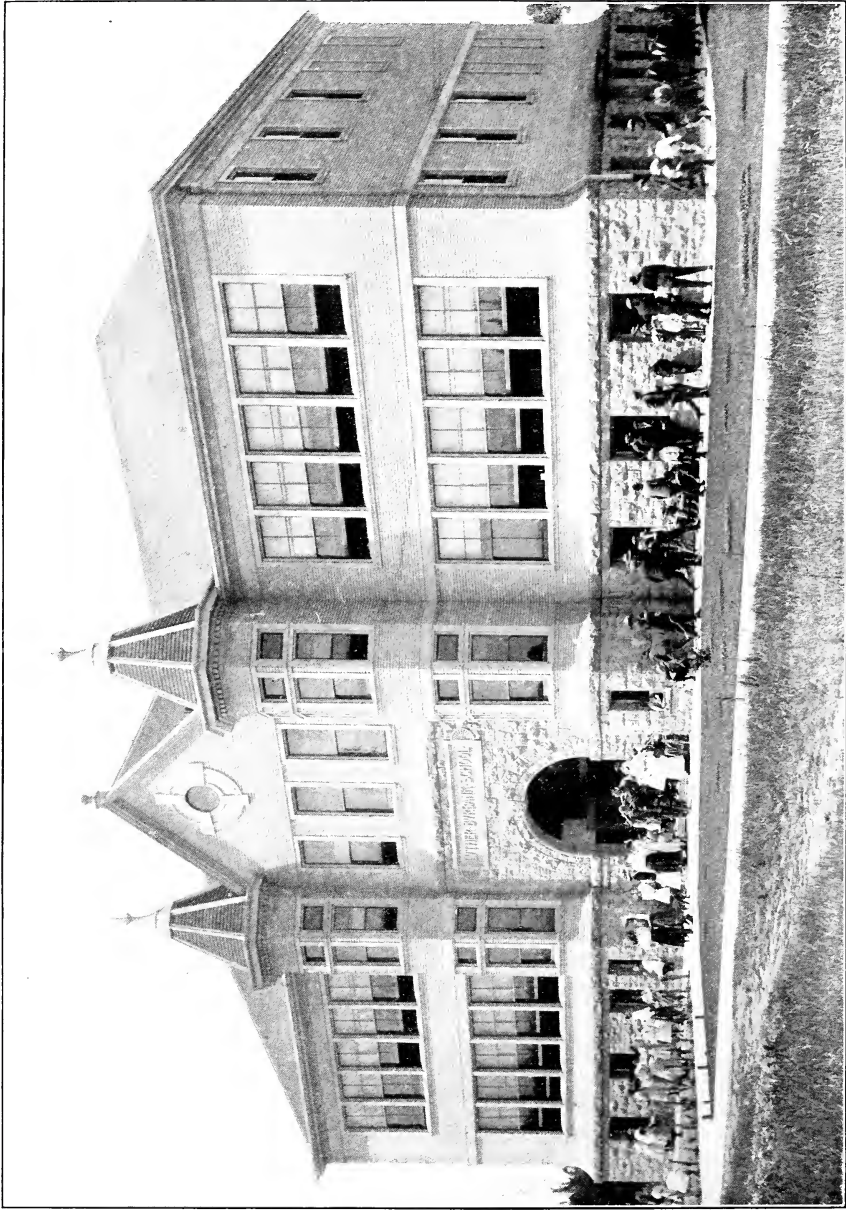
*A Western farmer sold a stranger a Black Walnut tree which was growing in his pasture for \$25, supposing he had made a good bargain. The stranger sold the same tree for \$600.*

---

LUTHER BURBANK

BURBANK'S EXPERIMENT FARMS

Santa Rosa, Cal., U. S. A.



*The Luther Burbank School at Santa Rosa, California*